

§ 622.37

50 CFR Ch. VI (10–1–10 Edition)

possession of mutton snapper in or from the EEZ on board a vessel that has a commercial permit for South Atlantic snapper-grouper is limited to 10 per person per day or 10 per person per trip, whichever is more restrictive.

(3) *Wreckfish spawning-season closure.* From January 15 through April 15, each year, no person may harvest or possess on a fishing vessel wreckfish in or from the EEZ; offload wreckfish from the EEZ; or sell or purchase wreckfish in or from the EEZ. The prohibition on sale or purchase of wreckfish does not apply to trade in wreckfish that were harvested, offloaded, and sold or purchased prior to January 15 and were held in cold storage by a dealer or processor.

(4) [Reserved]

(5) *Red porgy.* During January, February, March, and April, the harvest or possession of red porgy in or from the South Atlantic EEZ is limited to three per person per day or three per person per trip, whichever is more restrictive. In addition, this limitation is applicable in the South Atlantic on board a vessel for which a valid Federal commercial or charter vessel/headboat permit for South Atlantic snapper-grouper has been issued without regard to where such red porgy were harvested. Such red porgy are subject to the prohibition on sale or purchase, as specified in § 622.45(d)(5).

[61 FR 34934, July 3, 1996, as amended at 62 FR 67723, Dec. 30, 1997; 64 FR 3627, Jan. 25, 1999; 65 FR 51252, Aug. 23, 2000; 71 FR 45435; Aug. 9, 2006; 71 FR 55106, Oct. 23, 2006; 74 FR 30972, June 29, 2009]

§ 622.37 Size limits.

All size limits in this section are minimum size limits unless specified otherwise. Except for undersized king and Spanish mackerel allowed in paragraphs (c)(2) and (c)(3) of this section, a fish not in compliance with its size limit, as specified in this section, in or from the Caribbean, Gulf, South Atlantic, and/or Mid-Atlantic EEZ, as appropriate, may not be possessed, sold, or purchased. A fish not in compliance with its size limit must be released immediately with a minimum of harm. The operator of a vessel that fishes in the EEZ is responsible for ensuring that fish on board are in compliance

with the size limits specified in this section.

(a) *Caribbean reef fish:* Yellowtail snapper—12 inches (30.5 cm), TL.

(b) *Caribbean spiny lobster*—3.5 inches (8.9 cm), carapace length.

(c) *Coastal migratory pelagic fish.* (1) Cobia in the Gulf, Mid-Atlantic, or South Atlantic—33 inches (83.8 cm), fork length.

(2) King mackerel in the Gulf, South Atlantic, or Mid-Atlantic—24 inches (61.0 cm), fork length, except that a vessel fishing under a quota for king mackerel specified in § 622.42(c)(1) may possess undersized king mackerel in quantities not exceeding 5 percent, by weight, of the king mackerel on board.

(3) Spanish mackerel in the Gulf, South Atlantic, or Mid-Atlantic—12 inches (30.5 cm), fork length, except that a vessel fishing under a quota for Spanish mackerel specified in § 622.42(c)(2) may possess undersized Spanish mackerel in quantities not exceeding 5 percent, by weight, of the Spanish mackerel on board.

(d) *Gulf reef fish*—(1) *Snapper.* (i) Lane snapper—8 inches (20.3 cm), TL.

(ii) Vermilion snapper—10 inches (25.4 cm), TL.

(iii) Cubera, dog, gray, mahogany, and yellowtail snappers and schoolmaster—12 inches (30.5 cm), TL.

(iv) Red snapper—16 inches (40.6 cm), TL, for a fish taken by a person subject to the bag limit specified in § 622.39 (b)(1)(iii) and 13 inches (33.0 cm), TL, for a fish taken by a person not subject to the bag limit.

(v) Mutton snapper—16 inches (40.6 cm), TL.

(2) *Grouper.* (i) Scamp—16 inches (40.6 cm), TL.

(ii) Yellowfin grouper—20 inches (50.8 cm), TL.

(iii) Black grouper and gag—(A) For a person not subject to the bag limit specified in § 622.39(b)(1)(ii)—24 inches (61.0 cm), TL.

(B) For a person subject to the bag limit specified in § 622.39(b)(1)(ii)—22 inches (55.9 cm), TL.

(iv) Red grouper—(A) For a person not subject to the bag limit specified in § 622.39 (b)(1)(ii)—18 inches (45.7 cm), TL.

(B) For a person subject to the bag limit specified in § 622.39(b)(1)(ii)—20 inches (50.8 cm), TL.

(3) *Other Gulf reef fish species.* (i) Gray triggerfish—14 inches (35.6 cm), fork length.

(ii) Hogfish—12 inches (30.5 cm), fork length.

(iii) Banded rudderfish and lesser amberjack—14 inches (35.6 cm), fork length (minimum size); 22 inches (55.9 cm), fork length (maximum size).

(iv) Greater amberjack—30 inches (76 cm), fork length, for a fish taken by a person subject to the bag limit specified in § 622.39(b)(1)(i) and 36 inches (91.4 cm), fork length, for a fish taken by a person not subject to the bag limit.

(4) A person aboard a vessel that has a Federal commercial vessel permit for Gulf reef fish and commercial quantities of Gulf reef fish, i.e., Gulf reef fish in excess of applicable bag/possession limits, may not possess any Gulf reef fish that do not comply with the applicable commercial minimum size limit.

(e) *South Atlantic snapper-grouper*—(1) *Snapper.* (i) Lane snapper—8 inches (20.3 cm), TL.

(ii) Vermilion snapper—12 inches (30.5 cm), TL.

(iii) Blackfin, cubera, dog, gray, mahogany, queen, silk, and yellowtail snappers; and schoolmaster—12 inches (30.5 cm), TL.

(iv) Mutton snapper—16 inches (40.6 cm), TL.

(v) Red snapper—20 inches (50.8 cm), TL.

(2) *Grouper.* (i) Red, yellowfin, and yellowmouth grouper; and scamp—20 inches (50.8 cm), TL.

(ii) Black grouper and gag—24 inches (61.0 cm), TL.

(3) *Other snapper-grouper species.* (i) *Black sea bass.* (A) For a fish taken by a person subject to the bag limit specified in § 622.39(d)(1)(vii):

(1) Through May 31, 2007—11 inches (27.9 cm), TL; and

(2) On and after June 1, 2007—12 inches (30.5 cm), TL.

(B) For a fish taken by a person not subject to the bag limit in § 622.39(d)(1)—10 inches (25.4 cm), TL.

(ii) Gray triggerfish in the South Atlantic EEZ off Florida—12 inches (30.5 cm), TL.

(iii) Hogfish—12 inches (30.5 cm), fork length.

(iv) Red porgy—14 inches (35.6 cm), TL.

(v) Greater amberjack—28 inches (71.1 cm), fork length, for a fish taken by a person subject to the bag limit specified in § 622.39(d)(1)(i) and 36 inches (91.4 cm), fork length, for a fish taken by a person not subject to the bag limit.

(f) *Gulf shrimp.* White shrimp harvested in the EEZ are subject to the minimum-size landing and possession limits of Louisiana when possessed within the jurisdiction of that State.

(g) *Caribbean queen conch*—9 inches (22.9 cm) in length, that is, from the tip of the spire to the distal end of the shell, and $\frac{3}{8}$ inch (9.5 mm) in lip width at its widest point. A queen conch with a length of at least 9 inches (22.9 cm) or a lip width of at least $\frac{3}{8}$ inch (9.5 mm) is not undersized.

(h) *Dolphin in the Atlantic off Florida and off Georgia*—20 inches (50.8 cm), fork length.

[61 FR 34934, July 3, 1996]

EDITORIAL NOTE: For FEDERAL REGISTER citations affecting § 622.37, see the List of CFR Sections Affected, which appears in the Finding Aids section of the printed volume and on GPO Access.

§ 622.38 Landing fish intact.

The operator of a vessel that fishes in the EEZ is responsible for ensuring that fish on that vessel in the EEZ are maintained intact and, if taken from the EEZ, are maintained intact through offloading ashore, as specified in this section.

(a) The following must be maintained with head and fins intact: cobia, king mackerel, and Spanish mackerel in or from the Gulf, Mid-Atlantic, or South Atlantic EEZ, except as specified for king mackerel in paragraph (g) of this section; dolphin and wahoo in or from the Atlantic EEZ; South Atlantic snapper-grouper in or from the South Atlantic EEZ, except as specified in paragraph (h) of this section; finfish in or from the Caribbean EEZ, except as specified in paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section; and finfish in or from the Gulf EEZ, except as specified in paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section. Such fish may be eviscerated, gilled, and